

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
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INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USINT HAVANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 2846

PRETORIA ALSO FOR AMBASSADOR LOW

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV US UK RH
SUBJ: RHODESIA: ZAPU OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON MILITARY MATTERS

REF: LUSAKA 2828, LUSAKA 2829, LUSAKA 2830 (NOTAL)

1. DURING LENGTHY DISCUSSION WITH CHARGE AND POLOFF, ZAPU DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS EDWARD NDLOVU MADE A NUMBER OF COMMENTS OF INTEREST ON THE MILITARY ASPECT OF ZAPU'S LIBERATION EFFORTS. UNLIKE MOST ZAPU MEMBERS, NDLOVU READILY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT CUBANS WERE PRESENT IN ZAMBIA HELPING TO TRAIN THE ORGANIZATION'S GUERRILLAS. HE SAID THAT WHILE THEY WERE NOT LARGE IN NUMBER, THE CUBANS WERE VERY HELPFUL, BOTH IN ZAMBIA AND IN ANGOLA. TRANSPORT PROBLEMS WERE
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HINDERING THE MOVEMENT OF TRAINED PERSONNEL FROM ANGOLA AND WITHIN ZAMBIA BECAUSE A NUMBER OF TRUCKS HAD BROKEN DOWN WHILE TRAVELING THE ROUGH ROADS TO CAMPS IN ZAMBIA AND REPAIRS WERE DIFFICULT BECAUSE OF THE SHORTAGE OF SPARE PARTS. PROBLEMS WITH CUBAN SUPPLIED SOVIET TRUCKS ARE ESPECIALLY SEVERE. TRUCKS PURCHASED IN BOTSWANA CAUSE FEWER PROBLEMS, AND SPARE PARTS CAN BE PURCHASED THERE. HE ADMITTED THAT ZAPU'S PEUGEOT

404S WERE PURCHASED IN BOTSWANA.

2. NDLOVU SAID THAT THE ZAPU LEADERSHIP WAS GENERALLY PLEASED WITH THE OPERATION OF THEIR CAMPS IN ZAMBIA, BUT THERE HAD BEEN SOME DISCIPLINE PROBLEMS. THIS WAS ESPECIALLY TRUE WHERE CAMPS HOUSING MALE AND FEMALE RECRUITS WERE IN CLOSE PROXIMITY. HE ALSO NOTED THAT SOME ZAPU GUERRILLAS HAD BEEN PICKED UP BY ZAMBIAN POLICE IN THEIR RECENT DRAGNET DESIGNED TO ROUND UP UNDESIRABLE ALIENS IN TOWNSHIPS NEAR URBAN AREAS. NDLOVU SAID THAT LIAISON WITH ZAMBIAN AUTHORITIES WAS GOOD AND THE RELEASE OF THOSE ARRESTED DID NOT CAUSE UNDUE DIFFICULTY. HE IMPLIED, HOWEVER, THAT DISCIPLINARY PROBLEMS OF THIS NATURE WERE BECOMING MORE OF A CONCERN. LIAISON WITH ZAMBIAN AUTHORITIES EXISTS AT ALL LEVELS. RECRUITS ARRIVING AT LUSAKA AIRPORT ARE NEVER CHALLENGED; SUPPLIES PASS FREELY THROUGH CUSTOMS; AND ZAMBIA AIRWAYS PROVIDES TICKETS WITHOUT PAYMENT IN EMERGENCIES.

3. THE SOVIET UNION IS THE SOLE SUPPLIER OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT FOR ZAPU'S FIGHTING FORCE. HOWEVER, ZAPU IS RECEIVING MATERIAL SUPPORT FOR THE RAPIDLY INCREASING ZAPU REFUGEE POPULATION FROM A NUMBER OF SOURCES. HE ESTIMATED THE CURRENT NUMBER OF "REAL" REFUGEES AT 40,000 AND THAT MATERIAL AND SUPPLIES FOR THESE IS COMING FROM SOME GOVERNMENTS AS WELL AS FROM A NUMBER OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS. HE MENTIONED SPECIFICALLY THE FRG, THE US BRANCH OF THE BROTHERS OF CHRIST AND SEVERAL

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CANADIAN NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS AS RECENT CONTRIBUTORS.

4. COMMENT: NDLOVU IS ONE OF THE VERY FEW ZAPU MEMBERS TO ADMIT TO THE PRESENCE OF CUBAN PERSONNEL IN TRAINING CAMPS. NKOMO (AND THE ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT) HAVE CONSISTENTLY DENIED THAT CUBANS ARE HERE, DESPITE THE FACT THAT NO ONE SEEMS BELIEVE THE DENIALS. ZAPU'S TRANSPORT PROBLEMS ARE CERTAINLY NOT UNIQUE TO THE ORGANIZATION, BUT ARE ONLY A REFLECTION OF THE PROBLEM WHICH IS FACING EVERYONE IN ZAMBIA. WHILE WE BELIEVE NDLOVU'S ESTIMATE OF 40,000 REFUGEES IS EXAGGERATED, THE NUMBER IN ZAMBIA IS RAPIDLY APPROACHING THAT FIGURE, AND THE LOGISTICS OF TAKING CARE OF THAT MANY PEOPLE WILL BE AN INCREASING ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN TO THE ORGANIZATION. DEPARTMENT IS AWARE THAT ZAPU'S PROBLEMS EXTEND BEYOND THOSE CITED BY NDLOVU.

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